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PATENT APPLICATION CUSTOMER NO. 24347

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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A device for recognizing the locked condition of a seat belt buckle, the device comprising:
- a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by a change in inductance.
  - 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is arranged by a multi-turn conductor loop.
- 10 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is applied on a printed circuit.
  - 4. The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is planar.

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- 5. The device of claim 1, further comprising: an evaluation circuit which continues an oscillator circuit.
- 20 6. The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit further comprises:
  - a differentiating circuit for the recognition of oscillation.
- 7. The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit is evaluated by a micro-controller.

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- 8. The device of claim 1, further comprising
  a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected
  from the group consisting of diamagnetic,
  paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.
- 9. The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is part of a voltage transmission circuit.
- 10. The device of claim 1, further comprising:10 a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.
  - 11. A seat belt buckle comprising:
    - a seat belt buckle carrier;
- a seat belt buckle tongue;
  - an ejector;
  - a locking component; and
  - a device for recognizing the locked condition of a seat belt buckle according to claim 1.

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12. The seat belt buckle of claim 11 wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

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- 13. A device for recognizing a condition of a safety belt buckle, the device comprising:
  - a sensor that directly interrogates a locked condition by a change in a coupling factor.

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- 14. A device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor is arranged by two multi-turn conductor loops.
- 15. A device according to claim 14, wherein the multi-10 turn conductor loops are arranged in a concentric and bifilar manner.
  - 16. A device according to claim 14, wherein the conductor loops are applied on a printed circuit.

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- 17. A device according to claim 16, wherein the conductor loops are planar.
- 18. A device according to claim 13, wherein the device comprises a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected from the group diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.
- 19. A device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor 25 is part of a voltage transmission circuit.

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- 20. A device according to claim 13, further comprising: a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.

a locking component; and

- a device for recognizing the locked condition of a seat belt buckle according to claim 13.
- 22. The seat belt buckle of claim 21, wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material15 selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.